

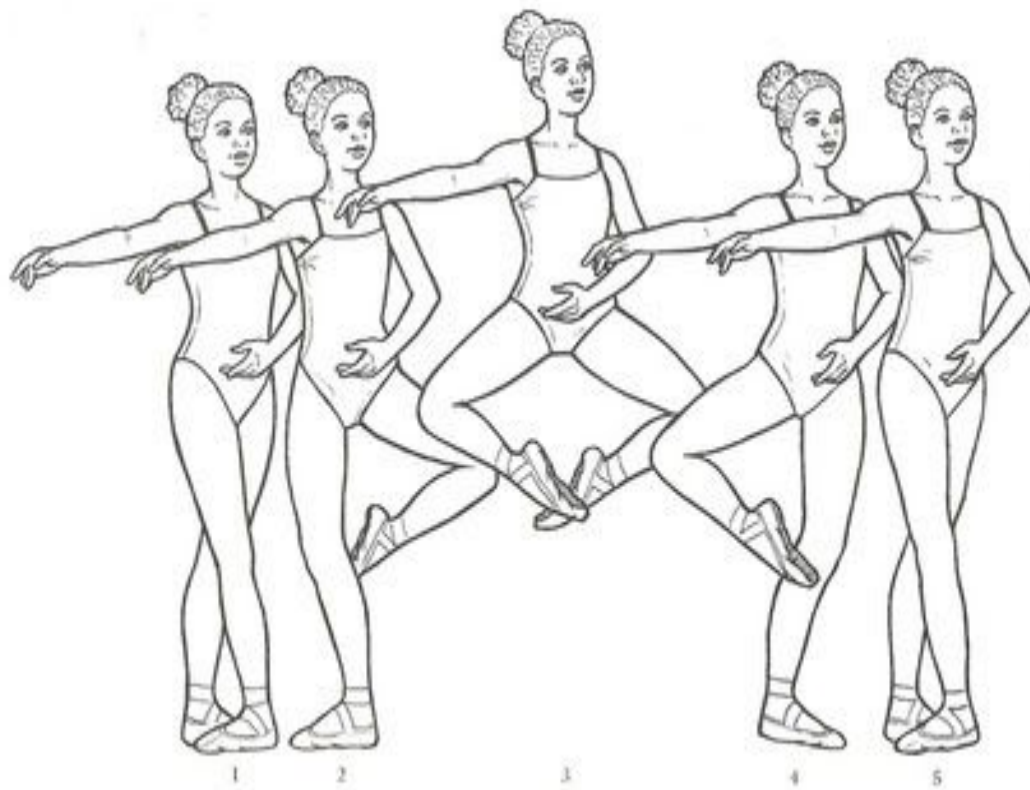


NORTH POINTE BALLET

Pas de chat

[pah duh shah].

Cat's step. The step owes its name to the likeness of the movement to a cat's leap. This traveling step is done from fifth position to fifth position; raising the back toe in retiré to the side of the front knee, the opposite toes connect to retiré in the air, and the feet land in fifth position almost simultaneously.



PAS DE CHAT

Pas de chat, step of the cat, is a small, quick spring into the air that moves in two directions—upward and sideways. In figure 1, the dancer is prepared to begin, with body correctly held: feet in fifth position, right foot in front; left arm low, right arm in second; and the head and body slightly turned in the direction in which the movement will travel. Following a demi-plié on both feet, the left leg begins to lift into retiré position (2) as the right leg pushes off

the floor. As the movement springs upward and sideways, we see the dancer at the highest point of the movement, with both legs in retiré position (3). It is as if the student were a marionette and the strings attached to her knees had been pulled quickly upward. In figures 4 and 5 the dancer lands in a plié, straightens her weight-bearing leg, and returns to her beginning position.